



Primary Care Partnerships

KEY MESSAGES

- Primary Care Partnerships were established in Victoria in 2000 and there are now 28 across the state, strengthening relationships with local primary care, health and community sectors to support prevention, early intervention and equitable access to services.
- Primary Care Partnerships are based on the philosophy that together partner organisations can achieve much more than can be achieved working on their own.
- Primary Care Partnerships across Victoria are undertaking work that delivers on over 20 state government policies and are actively embedding state government policy and reform in local communities across Victoria.
- With more than 850 members from a range of sectors including health, education, employment Primary Care Partnerships are working with their local communities, partner organisations and other key stakeholders to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Taking a place-based approach, Primary Care Partnerships work across a range of settings including schools and other education settings, health services, workplaces, sporting clubs, correctional centres and rural community settings.
- Through their well-established and trusted connections, Primary Care Partnerships are working towards ensuring their local communities achieve the same outcomes as those identified for all Victorians, that is, being healthy and well, being safe and secure, being connected to culture, having the capabilities to participate and a community that is liveable.
- To achieve these outcomes, Primary Care Partnerships are focusing their efforts on a range of complex health and social issues including preventing family violence, reducing alcohol and drug related harm, preventing harm from gambling, improving mental health and wellbeing, increased healthy eating and active living, oral health, social and cultural connectedness, community resilience, housing and homelessness, education and employment, healthy ageing, climate change, mobilising community will, reducing chronic disease and disability.
- Primary Care Partnerships are also identifying shared measures to track outcomes and to ensure they are making a difference locally and collectively across Victoria.
- While Primary Care Partnerships strive for positive outcomes for the whole of community much of their effort focuses on the most vulnerable members of a community. To address these inequalities Primary Care Partnerships are working alongside a range of population groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, LGBTQI communities, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, people with a disability, children and families, rural communities and farmers, older and younger populations.
- Primary Care Partnerships achieve results by drawing together the right people around a common agenda, and helping them align their efforts, by raising awareness, pooling current funding or mobilising new funding, by activating community will and aligning the agenda with government policy.
- Primary Care Partnerships build capacity both within their membership and the community. They provide resources, training, strategic guidance and advice; they act as a conduit for information, data, and evidence and guide and promote best practice. The impact of this is improved local and state-wide collaboration; reduce duplication and improved health and wellbeing for all Victorians.





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EXAMPLES FROM ACROSS VICTORIA

- Southern Melbourne PCP developed systems and processes to enable clients with type 2 diabetes to access appropriate and timely services when requiring insulin initiation across the catchment. The project targeted GPs that referred frequently to the community health diabetes services and the Alfred Health Diabetes services to develop pathways to increase referrals into the primary care setting.
- Central Hume PCP produced a video resource 'Taking Care of Dying Time' in consultation with community as part of the Advance Care Planning Initiative. The resource has been embraced widely by Aboriginal and Non-indigenous people. It has been used by the Western Australian government, St Vincent's Sydney and many other organisations.
- Lower Hume PCP facilitates the implementation of the Smiles 4 Miles program, which aims to improve oral health, across 41 early year's services in Lower Hume, reaching a total of 2046 children.
- The East Gippsland PCP coordinates the local Aboriginal Eye Health Partnership in collaboration with local Aboriginal and other health organisations. The partnership comes together to map the journey of Aboriginal people in East Gippsland through all the stages of eye health screening and treatment; identify gaps and opportunities to address these.
- HealthWest Partnership's A Seat at the Table initiative brought young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds with service providers to design and pilot ideas that address barriers to help-seeking behaviour in mental health.
- Wellington PCP are coordinating the Working Well in Wellington Project which brings together partners to identify and test a range of interventions that will improve the mental health of shift workers, particularly focusing on strategies that can be implemented in a regional setting across a variety of workplaces.
- South Western PCP is coordinating *Fight For Your Life* a multi-agency partnership delivering multiple strategies across multiple settings in line with the Victorian Suicide Prevention Life-Span Approach.
- Central Highlands PCP are working together to provide opportunities and environments which enable all people in Central Highlands to EAT WELL and MOVE MORE. Focusing on healthier eating and active living provides an opportunity to work with a broad range of partners to improve physical and mental health outcomes in our community.
- Outer East PCP are working with women with a lived experience of violence to create visual training resources that challenge social myths about men's violence against women and highlight gender inequality as a driver of violence.
- North East Healthy Communities ReSPIN initiative supports people with lived experience of gambling harm to share their story of hope and recovery. In doing this, ReSPIN reduces stigma associated with gambling, encourages help-seeking behaviours, and enhances other initiatives that seek to prevent harm from gambling.
- The Inner North West PCP's Working in Two Worlds initiative aims to assist mainstream organisations become more accessible, culturally safe and appropriate for Aboriginal people by supporting the recruitment and retention of the local Aboriginal workforce. The project won a HART award in 2018.
- The Inner East PCP is leading an integrated health promotion planning model with the goal of increasing social inclusion across 6 domains: Public and Social Housing estates; Volunteering; Community leadership; Supporting capacity building of organisations; Building the evidence base; and Developing partnerships.
- Southern Grampian Glenelg PCP is leading the way in Climate Change. The PCP has deepened their partners understanding of vulnerability in the context of climate change and identified strategies to build the capacity to reduce vulnerability. This involved significant consultation around vulnerability, working with agencies to identify impacts of climate change on their community and implementing strategies to reduce impacts that were operational or policy level actions.

For further information about Primary Care Partnerships key initiatives, please refer to Victorian Primary Care Partnerships, *Exemplar Primary Care Partnership Initiatives: A Snapshot of the Collective Activity of 28 Primary Care Partnerships across Victoria*. www.vicpcp.org.au